laid on the Table of the House "to the extent available.

Setting up of Committee for Writing Off Bad Loans

1770. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set up a Committee to frame uniform guidelines to write-off bad loans;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) when the Committee is likely to complete its work;

(d) whether the Chairman of Indian Banks Association has ruled out any relaxation in the non-performing asset norms in India; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an informal working group to frame guidelines on write-off/compromise of non-performing advances of banks. The terms of reference of the Group are to examine and suggest;

I. Criteria for provisional write-off;

II. Criteria for final write-off;

III. Criteria for compromise settlement; and

IV. Setting up of Debt Settlement Tribunal in view of the fact that the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT), have no discretion in awarding settlements. The group is likely to complete its work within next three to four months;

(d) and (e) Norms for classification of assets arc finalised by the Reserve Bank of India and not by the Indian Banks Association.

Resource Support by SIDBI to NBFCs

1771. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of resource support given by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to NBFCs for transportation financing in 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the percentage total resource support scheme allocated to the NBFCs under the above head;

(c) the amount sanctioned by SIDBI on technology development and modernisation schemes in 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to ensure financing by SIDBI in small scale industry rather than NBFC and large scale unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY "OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) SIDBI has been providing support to NBFCs in respect of their leasing/hire purchase activities relating to the small scale industries (SS and small Road Transport Operators (SRTOs). Amount of disbursements to NBF in respect of

SRTOs, during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:

(Rs. crorc)

Year	Total Disbursement to NBFCs,	Out of which for Transport financing		
		Amount	As % to total NBFCs	As % to SIDBI for total Disb.
1996-97	288.7	236.7	82.0	5.2
1997-98	117.5	84.2	71.7	1.6

(c) The total assistance sanctioned disbursed by SIDBI under Technology Development and Modernisation Schemes (Both Direct and Indirect during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Sanction	Disbursement
1996-97	15.53	18.11
1997-98	52.25	17.13
Cumulative	120.00	47.00

(d) While the overall sanctions of SIDBI grew by 15% from Rs. 6485 crore in 1996-97 to Rs. 7484 crore in 1997-98, there was negative growth of 50% in the Sanctions to NBFCs Disbursements relating to Transport Sector made to NBFCs as percentage to the total disbursements of SIDBI during 1997-98 formed only 1.6%

Shifting of Forex Department of SBI

1772. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has partially shifted its Forex Department in Calcutta to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Finance Minister and Prime Minister had assured the Chief Minister of West Bengal that status quo would be maintained in the matter;

(d) whether the Government of West Bengal was consulted before taking of decision regarding partial shifting of Forex Department; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that while its Foreign Department remains at Calcutta, the inter-bank foreign exchange dealing and cover operations have been shifted from Calcutta to Mumbai with effect from 12.10.1998 as part of the Bank's integration of its treasury operations.

(c) Letters dated 17.11.1998 have been sent to a number of dignitaries including the Chief Minister of West Bengal, in response to their communications on the subject.

(d) and (e) The places from which certain activities are to be undertake by the banks should be decided by the banks themselves having regard to their best commercial interest.

New Formula for Privatising PSUs

1773. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new redical formula has been evolved for privatising public sector enterprises to achieve the desired disinvestment;